LISTING OF CLAIMS:

17. (currently amended) A process for minimizing thermal aggregation of DNase in a liquid solution comprising:

introducing a DNase aggregation-inhibiting amount of sugar to a solution comprising a human DNase, wherein ~~and elevating~~ the temperature of said DNase solution is subsequently elevated to above 37°C and aggregation of DNase at said elevated temperature is reduced.

18. (previously presented) A process according to claim 17, wherein the temperature of said solution is elevated above about 60°C.

19. (currently amended) A process according to claim 17, ~~further comprising~~ reducing wherein the pH of said solution is below pH 7.0.

20. (previously presented) A process according to claim 19, wherein said solution is at about pH 6.5.

21. (previously presented) A process according to claim 19, wherein said solution is at about pH 6.

22. (previously presented) A process according to claim 19, wherein said solution is at about pH 5.

23. (previously presented) A process according to claim 17, wherein said sugar is present in an amount from 50 mg/ml to 200 mg/ml.

24. (currently amended) A process according to claim 17, wherein said sugar is selected from the group consisting α-lactose monohydrate, mannitol, trehalose ~~or~~ and sucrose.

25. (previously presented) The process according to claim 17, further comprising the steps of spray-drying said liquid solution and collecting the spray-dried product as a respirable

DNase-containing powder that is therapeutically effective when administered into the lung of an individual.

26. (currently amended) A DNase solution comprising a human DNase and a DNase aggregation-inhibiting amount of sugar wherein said DNase solution is minimally aggregated when said solution is at a temperature greater than 37°C.

27. (previously presented) A DNase solution according to claim 26, wherein the temperature is greater than about 60°C.

28. (currently amended) A DNase solution according to claim 26, wherein the pH of said solution is ~~further kept at a pH~~ below 7.0.

29. (previously presented) A DNase solution according to claim 28, wherein said solution is at about pH 6.5.

30. (previously presented) A DNase solution according to claim 28, wherein said solution is at about pH 6.

31. (previously presented) A DNase solution according to claim 26, wherein said sugar is present in an amount from 50 mg/ml to 200 mg/ml.

32. (currently amended) A DNase solution according to claim 26, wherein said sugar is selected from the group consisting α-lactose monohydrate, mannitol, trehalose ~~or~~ and sucrose.

33. (currently amended) A composition comprising the ~~A~~ DNase solution according to claim 26, wherein said solution ~~that~~ is further spray-dried to a respirable DNase-containing powder that is therapeutically effective when administered into the lung of an individual.